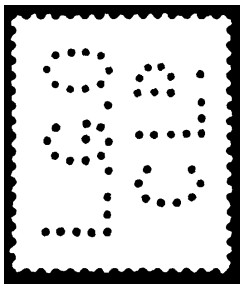
CROSVILLE MOTOR SERVICES Ltd, CHESTER.

Roy Gault

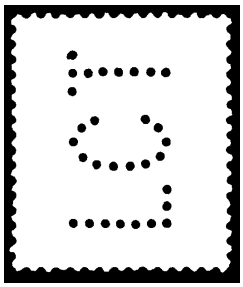
It seems that Bus companies rarely used perfins, as all I can think of at the moment is 'London Transport', 'Leicester City Transport' and the 'London General Omnibus Co' (see Bulletin No.321, Dec 2002).

1905-1915



L2600.01

1905-1964



L1330.01

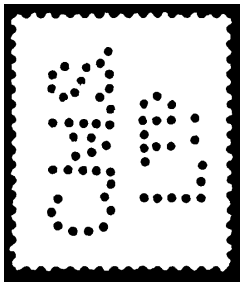
However, we can add one more name to this embyryonic list, that of ***Crosville Motor Services Ltd***, Crane Wharf, Chester.

In 1906, two brothers (James and George Crosland Taylor) set up a small business in Chester to assemble and sell French designed motor cars. Almost immediately their French contact, Georges de Ville, joined them, and on 27th October 1906 the 'Crosville Motor Company Ltd' was formed. By 1909, however, the company had stopped building cars and decided to get into the burgeoning business of running scheduled motor omnibus services. Their first route, between Chester and Ellesmere Port, was inaugurated on 2nd February, 1911.

Crosville's operations expanded greatly over the years, until eventually they covered the Wirral, and parts of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Flintshire. The company, however, was purchased outright in November 1929 by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company. The new company traded initially as "LMS(Crosville)", before becoming "Crosville Motor Services Ltd" on 15th May 1930. Various smaller bus companies operating in the area were also acquired so that by the end of 1930 "C.M.S Ltd" had control of North and Central Wales as well the Wirral and Cheshire. This is where the use of perfins comes in, as just one die is known to have been used by them, namely "C.M.S./Ltd.." (C5100.01M) from 1935 to 1945.

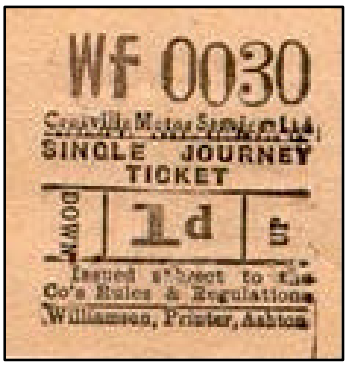
The earliest dated stamp I have on record is 18th May 1937, whereas the latest date (on piece) is 8th December 1944, but by this time the die was in poor condition.

1935-1945

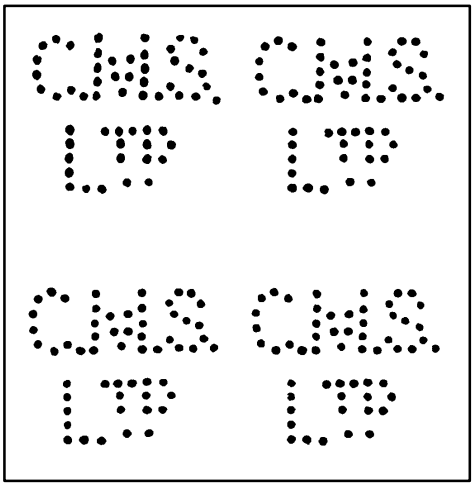


C5100.01M

Just the ticket!
A 'short' bus ticket issued by the company as a wartime 'paper saving' measure.



Quite some years ago **Dave Hill** chanced upon a number of multiples and large format stamps from which the following ***tentative*** reconstruction emerged. The die is known to have been multiheaded (possibly 2x2) as the position of the stop after the "S" varies.



Issues:

M	½d
O	½d, 1½d
P	1½d
Q	½d, 1½d
R	2½d

Note: Also known upright.

Pmks: Chester.

<u>Please help</u> by reporting any additional issues, values and postmarks.

On 3rd December 1944, "C.M.S Ltd" became a subsiduary of the Tilling Group, which was itself acquired on 1st January 1948 by the British Transport Commission. By the 1960's many of the unprofitable rural routes were withdrawn and a general trend of contraction had been embarked upon leading up to deregulation in 1986. By 1990 it was all over, by which time the once famous bus company had been split up and sold off. If you want to know more, visit:

www.petergould.co.uk and www.transport-ticket.org.uk